

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ACDA-10 ISO-00 SAI-01 PM-03

USIA-15 /064 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:HSFOSTER:PLS

APPROVED BY PA/M:HSFOSTER

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P R 102158Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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SALT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

GENEVA FOR CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. DOMESTIC NEWS CONTINUES PROMINENT. SUNDAY
BALTSUN FRONTPAGED HAMMER CLINCHES PIPELINE DEAL WITH
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SOVIET; NYTIMES FRONTPAGED PHOTO OF SOVIET ASTRONAUTS

AT CANAVERAL, ALSO REPORTED US IS SUPPLYING MISSILES TO OMAN. MONDAY WASHPOST FRONTPAGES PHOTO OF TWO COSMONAUTS RETURNING FROM 30-DAY ORBIT. COMMENT SCATTERED. FRIDAY BALTSUN AND SUNDAY WASHSTAR HAD KOZYAKOV ARTICLE ON SALT.

1A. FRIDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAD PENTAGON SEEKS MORE DEADLY TRIDENT; BALTSUN REPORTED US UNDERESTIMATED SOVIET MISSILE PROGRESS; WASHSTAR SAID ARMS COSTS ON 49 WEAPONS SYSTEMS WILL BE 59.7 BILLIONS MORE THAN ESTIMATED DURING PLANNING STAGE, ACCORDING GAO. SATURDAY NYTIMES REPORTED THAT RESTORING ARMY TO 16 DIVISIONS WILL COST 2.5 BILLIONS OVER 5 YEARS. SUNDAY NYTIMES HAD REVIEW PIECE SAYING PENTAGON BUDGET PRESENT CONGRESS WITH GUNS-OR-BUTTER DECISION; SUNDAY WASHPOST GETLER REPORTED SERVICES WANT TO MAKE NEW POISON GAS BOMB WITH BINARY NERVE GAS.

2. WEAPONS. FRIDAY NYTIMES FINNEY WASHINGTON REPORTED DOD IS PROPOSING TO ADD A NEW DIMENSION TO ITS STRATEGIC ARSENAL BY GIVING FUTURE SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED MISSILES A CAPABILITY TO ATTACK SOVIET ICBMS IN THEIR SILOS, AND SEN. MCINTYRE HAS WRITTEN SCHLESINGER ASKING IF THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULDN'T INTRODUCE NEW INSTABILITIES INTO THE STRATEGIC ARMS COMPETITION WITH SOVIET UNION.

2A. FRIDAY BALTSUN CORDDRY WASHINGTON REPORTED GEN. GEORGE BROWN SAID CURRENT EVIDENCE SHOWS US UNDERESTIMATED JUST A YEAR AGO THE SCOPE OF SOVIET UNION'S PROGRAM FOR PRODUCING BOTH MISSILE LAUNCHERS AND NUCLEAR WARHEADS, CITING BROWN'S MILITARY POSTURE STATEMENT. CORDDRY SAYS BROWN MENTIONED MARVS WHICH WOULD ZIG-ZAG AS THEY NEARED TARGETS TO AVOID INTERCEPTION AND SPOKE OF DEVELOPING THIS EVADER MISSILE AS A HEDGE AGAINST SOVIET EFFORTS TO TURN ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE WEAPONS INTO ANTIMISSILE WEAPONS, ADDING THAT IT COULD BE USED ON FORTHCOMING TRIDENT BALLISTIC MISSILE.

2B. SUNDAY NYTIMES FINNEY REVIEW PIECE SAYS FOR YEARS US HAS BEEN PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION THAT NATION COULD AFFORD BOTH GUNS AND BUTTER, BUT THIS ASSUMPTION HAS BEEN CHALLENGED BY ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO INCREASE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEFENSE SPENDING WHILE REDUCING DOMESTIC PROGRAMS. FINNEY CITES FRESHMAN CULVER OF IOWA SUGGESTING THAT MAYBE US DOES NOT HAVE TO BE FIRST IN EVERY RESPECT IN DEFENSE, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS NOT FIRST IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ITS OWN PEOPLE.

3. COMMENT. VLADISLAV KOZYAKOV IN HIS SOVIET VIEW OF SALT TWO SAYS THAT THE MAJOR POINTS APPROVED IN

VLADIVOSTOK CONTAIN ALL THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE AGREEMENT WHICH WILL REST ON THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY. KOZYAKOV SAID CHIEF MERIT OF CONCLUDING A NEW SALT AGREEMENT IS THAT IT HALTS FOR TEN YEARS THE UNRESTRICTED ARMS RACE IN THE MOST DANGEROUS AND COSTLY WEAPONS.

3A. MONDAY BALTSUN EDITORIALIZES ON DETENTE UNCERTAINTIES BUT SEES SOME ASSURANCE OF CONTINUITY IN AMERICAN POLICIES AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER 1976 ELECTIONS. SUN ADDED THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE COMING SALT TWO AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE A MATTER OF DEBATE, PERHAPS INTENSE DEBATE. NOR DOES IT MEAN THERE WILL BE NO DIFFICULTIES OVER TRADE OR MIDEAST, BUT IF THERE IS TO BE A BIG TURNABOUT ON DETENTE CHANCES ARE IT WOULD COME FROM A CHANGE IN SOVIET RATHER THAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP.

3B. THURSDAY WASHPOST HAD ZORZA COLUMN SAYING THAT THE PUBLIC OUTCRY AGAINST THE HIGH CEILINGS OF VLADIVOSTIOK PRODUCED, SURPRISINGLY EASILY, A SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO VLADISVOSTOK, AND THAT KISSINGER HAS TAKEN TO STRESSING THAT, ONCE SALT TWO IS SIGNED, IT SHOULD BE EASY TO BRING THE CEILING DOWN QUITE RAPIDLY.

3C. FRIDAY BALTSUN EDITORIAL ON DEFENSE BUDGET SAID IF CONGRESS GIVES THE GO-AHEAD TO THIS SCHLESINGER BUDGET WHICH PROJECTS A REAL GROWTH IN WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, THE NATION WOULD BE EMBARKED ON A COURSE THAT WOULD PUSH THE FISCAL 1980 BUDGET CLOSE TO THE 150 BILLION MARK. CONGRESSMEN AND TAXPAYERS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHY SCHLESINGER IS PUSHING SO HARD TO IMPROVE CONVENTIONAL FORCES AFTER THE NIXON YEARS OF EMPHASIS ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS. DOES HE ENVISAGE NEW UNCLASSIFIED

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MISSIONS? OR IS THIS JUST A SWING OF THE PENDULUM? INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE030157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HSFOSTER:PLS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750048-0496
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750256/aaaabylf.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE GENEVA FOR CSCE
TAGS: PINT, PARM, US, XG
To: SALT TALKS GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006